

A Corporate Publication of Santee Cooper

POWERSOURCE

Winter 2013



FROM *the* CEO



Certainly, 2012 was a year for the record books, and one that benefitted our customers in several ways. Santee Cooper began building new, clean nuclear generation. We began retirement of older, inefficient generation. And we took several steps forward in our continuing role as an economic development trailblazer for the state.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission awarded our nuclear partner, SCANA Corp., combined construction and operating licenses in March, clearing the way for construction of two units that we co-own. Nuclear power is virtually emissions free and a cornerstone to Santee Cooper's plans to diversify our generating fuel sources,

enhance our operating flexibility and maintain our ability to offer low-cost, reliable power for the long term. These units are scheduled to come online in 2017 and 2018.

In October, our board authorized retirements of four coal-fired generating units and two oil-fired units, at Grainger and Jefferies generating stations. These are our oldest stations, we have only used them for peaking situations in recent years, and it would be cost-prohibitive to upgrade them to comply with environmental regulations coming into effect in the next couple of years. Retiring these units is in our customers' best interests.

Looking at economic development, we joined with the state's electric cooperatives and announced a new, lower electric rate designed to land significant capital investment and jobs across the state – which benefits all of us. Additionally, Santee Cooper created a loan pool for local governments and nonprofit economic development organizations that can be used for land acquisition,

infrastructure improvements, or buildings. Look for the article in this issue about how one loan has already benefited Dorchester County. We have also approved a loan for a project in Newberry County.

I'm pleased to introduce a new emphasis for PowerSource. Beginning with this issue, you'll find dedicated space celebrating South Carolina's business development successes and Santee Cooper's role in those. If you are already fortunate enough to live here, you understand why South Carolina is just right. Now, PowerSource will help spread that word to new frontiers. Read more, and download our new, free iPad app for more content to enjoy and share.

All the best in 2013,

Lonnie N. Carter
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Winter 2013
Vol. 13, No. 1

.....

Mollie Gore
Editor

Tom Galmarini
Creative Director

Jim Huff
Photo Editor/
Photographer

Sarah Nell Blackwell
Art Director

Nicole A. Aiello
Writer

Willard Strong
Senior Writer

.....

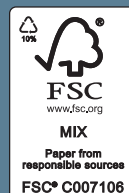
PowerSource is
published by
Santee Cooper
Corporate
Communications.
Use of materials
is not authorized
without permission
of the editor.

.....

email: mollie.gore
@santeecooper.com
phone: 843-761-7093

.....

Address all
correspondence to:
**Corporate
Communications**
Santee Cooper
1 Riverwood Drive
Moncks Corner,
SC 29461-2901





A note from the editor:

PowerSource is pleased to introduce significant new features with this Winter 2013 issue.

We are now available in multimedia form as an iPad app and as a Web-based publication. The digital formats feature what you see here, along with additional photography, videography and interactivity that we think tells these stories in an even better, more relevant way. Download our app from Apple's Newsstand, or check out our Web version at santeecooper.com/powersource.

We also are proud to introduce a new focus on South Carolina success stories: **South Carolina Works** will package in each issue articles about business successes, partnerships that work to improve our state's economy, and the people responsible for the achievements and progress.

We welcome feedback, as always. Contact me via the digital publications, and email me here at mollie.gore@santeecooper.com.

Happy 2013,

Mollie Gore

Mollie Gore

SOUTH CAROLINA WORKS

INSIDE THE DEAL:

4 Bridgestone & AEC

By Mollie Gore

.....

10 Showa Denko Expands

By Willard Strong

18 The Sky's the Limit

By Nicole A. Aiello

23 Business Briefly

24 Focus On Berkeley County: Celebrate The Season Shines On

By Mollie Gore

30 Making Megawatts from Waste

By Willard Strong

32 Grainger & Jefferies Retiring

33 Sandy Storm Restoration

34 NewSource



INSIDE THE DEAL

Bridgestone back for more

by Mollie Gore
photos by Jim Huff



Steve Brooks, project manager for the Bridgestone expansion underway in Aiken County, discusses why the company chose South Carolina during a recent State Ports Authority site selectors conference in Charleston.

Right: As shown here, the South Carolina Ports Authority Wando Terminal is a buzz of activity.

Aiken County is where the rubber meets the road for Bridgestone Americas. The global tire manufacturer announced a \$1.2 billion investment in Aiken last year and is now busy building a new manufacturing plant there and expanding its existing plant, located within a couple of miles of each other.

The new plant will make giant off-road radial tires and represents a \$900 million investment. The expansion represents a \$300 million investment, and together, both projects will provide 850 new jobs. When Bridgestone Americas CEO Gary Garfield announced the projects, he thanked a long list of supporters ranging from the governor to the South Carolina Ports Authority and the Aiken Economic Development Partnership.

The bottom line? Bridgestone, which

opened its existing Aiken tire plant 14 years ago, could have built this new off-road radial plant anywhere in the world.

"They chose to bring it here because of what Aiken County had done in welcoming them already, and what the state of South Carolina had done," said Gary L. Stooksbury, CEO of Aiken Electric Cooperative and chairman of the Aiken Economic Development Partnership. Simply put, that decision "put Aiken County on the international map."

"Bridgestone Americas is a world-class manufacturer and this investment will be a real game-changer," Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt said when the announcement was made. "The company's new plant will further strengthen South Carolina's manufacturing sector, and shows that our business-friendly environment and top-notch talent continue to keep us competitive with locations across the globe."

For its part, Aiken Electric Cooperative earmarked \$300,000 for the project, to relocate a road that conflicted with the plant footprint, even though the co-op doesn't provide electricity to the site. However, the relocation of the road will open up more of the



SEE MORE AT SANTEECOOPER.COM/POWERSOURCE OR DOWNLOAD OUR APP 

Gary Stooksbury, head of Aiken Electric Cooperative and the Aiken Economic Development Partnership, worked with local and state officials to land the new Bridgestone project.

industrial park for Aiken Electric to serve. Stooksbury is quick to note that the money isn't membership money, but rather Rural Development Act funds collected for such economic development opportunities. And the co-op members will reap rewards from the investment.

"Those 800-some employees are going to have to live somewhere," Stooksbury noted. "We will undoubtedly be serving a good number of those workers."

Stooksbury tells his membership that "Bridgestone is going to employ a lot of people. Your sons and daughters will hopefully not have to leave this community

to get a good job. And your tax base is going to be a lot better. Bridgestone is a great corporate citizen, and so it's a win-win for everybody."

These deals are the payoff, of course, when local-state coalitions successfully work together. It's what drives Stooksbury in Aiken, and it's the impetus behind changes at the South Carolina Ports Authority facilities in Charleston.

South Carolina is already a major exporter of tires, and the new Bridgestone facility will certainly increase that statistic. In fact, Bridgestone is one of the top 25 new port-dependent projects identified by Jim Newsome, state ports president and CEO, at a recent site selectors conference in Charleston.

The Port of Charleston is one of the nation's busiest container ports and also one of its most efficient and productive. It is fourth largest on the East Coast and is a major asset in efforts to attract and retain industries in the state. It is also a major reason that South Carolina is becoming America's "tire capital." It certainly factored into Bridgestone's Aiken decisions that followed a devastating 2011 tsunami in Japan.

Bridgestone's only existing off-road radial plant lies in Japan. The tsunami didn't affect Bridgestone's plant, but the company still had to thoroughly inspect its operations there for stability. "We lost approximately one week production, and our plants are very close to the water," which presented new risk going forward, said Steve Brooks, project manager for the Aiken project, during the recent ports site selectors conference. Secondly, Brooks said, the yen was struggling against the dollar, creating another risk for concentrating Bridgestone's proprietary off-road radial operations in Japan.

Bridgestone has 47 plants in 25 countries, Brooks said. The Aiken plant is "very productive," he said. "It's the culture that makes a difference there, the people."

Workforce suitability certainly factored high on the global manufacturer's list as it began looking for a new plant location. Other considerations: a suitable site that could be built out quickly, adequate electrical and other infrastructure, and good proximity to interstate, rail and port access.

The Sage Mill Industrial Park site "is one to two miles from the existing Aiken site, and it had gone through South Carolina's

site certification process, which was valuable to us,” said Mark Williams, president of Strategic Development Group, which assisted in the site selection process. “They wanted to move quickly.” The existing operations gave Bridgestone good experience with South Carolina’s interstate, rail and port operations.

Ports CEO Newsome emphasized that the Port of Charleston is not resting on that good success. “We are investing about \$2 billion into our ports and related infrastructure over the next 10 years,” he said. Much of that is keyed to the ongoing Panama Canal widening, which will mean bigger ships requiring deeper harbors and other port alterations at the major U.S. ports. South Carolina’s ports will be ready to do their part in matching these new opportunities to local communities with ready workforces and shovel-ready sites, leaders agreed.

And so Aiken’s Bridgestone story may be the largest initial investment in South Carolina for now, but tomorrow is another day. As Stooksbury said, “It’s critical to anticipate what the next big project is, so we can be ready.”

Top: The Aiken Electric Cooperative logo

Bottom: This sign welcomes visitors to the existing Bridgestone plant in Aiken County. Bridgestone’s good experience in Aiken helped convince executives to expand there.





A partnership that works:

Aiken Electric Cooperative and Aiken Economic Development Partnership

When you share a top executive, collaboration comes easy. But it should anyway, when the organizations are an electric cooperative and an entity charged with promoting economic development, says Gary L. Stooksbury, president and CEO of Aiken Electric Cooperative and chairman of the Aiken Economic Development Partnership (EDP).

Aiken Electric, one of the state's 20 electric cooperatives that distributes Santee Cooper power to co-op members, will celebrate its 75th anniversary in February. "Economic development has been part of our culture for a long time," Stooksbury said. "It's a business decision, actually. We can improve the quality of life in our community. And we can offer lower rates to everyone by spreading our load to new industry."

Aiken Electric has initiatives they offer to recruit and retain industry, like capital funds from the Rural Development

Act fees they are required to collect by state law and can option to spend in Aiken County. Sometimes the funds help with specific projects, and other times they help get a site "shovel-ready" for businesses looking to expand. "It's like a car dealership. You've got to have something to show," Stooksbury said.

As for the EDP, it is conducting workforce studies now to determine business needs for the future, to help measure what type of skill sets will be needed and how those workers will be trained. The Bridgestone project is one focus, and another is staffing for new nuclear plants under construction in nearby Georgia and outside Columbia.

Meanwhile, potential new projects continue to show up on the economic radar. "I think 2013 is going to be a great year for us in Aiken County," Stooksbury said.



SCJUSTRIGHT.COM

Stay tuned.

(Hint: watch Super Bowl XLVII to learn more.)



by Willard Strong
photos by Jim Huff



SHOWA DENKO: Growing in Ridgeville

Previous page: Showa Denko worker Chris King presets a pin into a finished graphite electrode. This is the last part of the process just prior to bundling and preparing the product for shipping.

Below: Showa Denko's expansion includes the construction of necessary utilities and a cooling-water sump associated with 11 new furnaces, adding to the 17 furnaces now in service at the Ridgeville site.

It may not be a household name, but Showa Denko Carbon Inc., one of Santee Cooper's industrial customers, has a tremendous impact on many products we buy, from refrigerators to cars.

On the outskirts of Ridgeville, S.C. in east-central Dorchester County, the 30-year-old plant manufactures graphite electrodes of various sizes, primarily large diameter, using petroleum coke and coal-based pitch as major raw materials. Graphite electrodes are used in electric-arc furnaces to make various types of steel. In adjacent Berkeley County, Nucor Steel, another Santee Cooper customer, uses Showa Denko products to make flat-rolled and structural steel that in

turn is used to make refrigerators, stoves, bridges and a plethora of other wares.

This supply-chain dynamic has built Showa Denko's importance to the point it needs to expand its facility. Nearly two years ago, the firm announced its intent to add 100 jobs to its existing work force of 210.

"We operate quietly in rural Dorchester County," Showa Denko's president and CEO Robert C. Whitten said at that February 2011 announcement. "But our business has been successful, and we see growing demand." The new investment will increase the plant's current capacity approximately 30,000 metric tons annually, from about 45,000 metric tons today.





Specialized machinery is part of the manufacturing process that requires precision and skilled employees to operate the plant at peak efficiency.

“We face very stiff, international competition,” Whitten said. “But we’re very strongly committed to this project and graphite electrodes are a significant component of our corporate growth strategy. We looked elsewhere around the world, but the Charleston region is very attractive for us. We have in place here the power, the (natural) gas, rail, the interstate highway, the port of Charleston, and most importantly, South Carolinians with the skills and commitment to produce the best graphite electrodes in the world.”

Whitten says that nearly one-third of its product leaves Ridgeville and is shipped out of the ports of Charleston, Savannah and Miami.

“In the end, we decided to expand here because we’ve been successful since acquiring the plant in 1988,” Whitten says. “We’ve been well-received by the community and have support from local and state government. Dorchester County Council Chairman Larry Hargett, County

Administrator Jason Ward, and Economic Development Director Jon Baggett and his folks have been so supportive, as has South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, along with Santee Cooper. All this has come together positioning us where we are today. Our future here is bright and it is a very positive development in our corporate history.”

THE CHALLENGE OF INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Whitten, a University of Louisville graduate and former officer in the U.S. Navy, joined Showa Denko in 1988. That’s when the firm acquired the Ridgeville plant from Airco Carbon. Showa Denko is headquartered in Tokyo, and Whitten travels to Japan about six or seven times a year.

Whitten is also chairman-elect of the Charleston Regional Development Alliance, an economic development entity formed



**“At all of our facilities,
we are conscious about
safety and protecting
the environment”**

in the mid-1990s. He knows firsthand the difficulties existing industries face when attempting to expand their physical footprint in a community. Whitten faced various challenges at the Ridgeville facility, but all will be resolved in ways that will produce a positive result.

“At all of our facilities, we are conscious about safety and protecting the environment,” Whitten says. “Our corporation has a Responsible Care environmental and safety policy. We want a good relationship with the community, because people have an expectation that their safety and health are not at risk. I consider myself an environmentalist, and I believe that manufacturing a product is a noble endeavor that can exist in harmony with neighbors and the land. Manufacturing helps to create the wealth of our nation. Of course, we have to be profitable, but I also believe we have been a good neighbor here and will continue to be one. Successful manufacturing and environmental responsibility can co-exist. I believe we’ve done that here.”

Last November, the first of what will become a construction workforce of about 400 arrived onsite. If all goes according to plan, the expansion will be complete by the end of next year. Whitten, like all manufacturers, needs good employees. That’s another obstacle he’s facing head on.

“We have a challenge in recruiting qualified people and a lot is being done to attract and develop talent,” says Whitten. “We need to replace good senior workers as they retire with equally good new workers. What we have to offer here is not just a job, but a career. I believe we’re an attractive place for business professionals and engineers with chemical, ceramic,



electrical and mechanical engineering skills. We partner with post-secondary educational institutions in the region, such as Trident Technical College, Orangeburg Calhoun Technical Institute, The Citadel and others. That’s an important resource to our continued success.”

Bob Whitten, plant manager at the Ridgeville facility, has been with Showa Denko for 25 years and is chairman-elect of the Charleston Regional Development Alliance.

Showa Denko offers good benefits, a family oriented corporate culture and a chance for a long-term tenure. Its employees give back to the community. The Trident United Way is a beneficiary, as is Harleyville-Ridgeville High School, where employees participate in a student mentoring program.



RELATIONSHIP WITH SANTEE COOPER

Santee Cooper works hard to foster a positive relationship with all its customers. On the industrial side, customers have unique requirements, and some manufacturing facilities are more energy intensive than others. Showa Denko is a big energy user and power costs are a major part of their cost of business. Santee Cooper works hard to help Showa Denko minimize those costs.

“We try to be open and communicate with them on a regular basis,” says Mike Brown, vice president of wholesale and industrial services. “That’s the starting point on a relationship with all our industrial customers. Showa Denko has a unique manufacturing process that results in a varying load. They are the experts in their

processes, not us. So, we try to understand their requirements and share with them the challenges we face in providing them with reliable and affordable power, and determine how to best apply different rate schedules to meet their needs.”

Under Brown is David O’Dell, director of industrial and municipal services. It’s his job to foster and promote good relationships with customers such as Showa Denko. Regularly scheduled meetings are part of the routine. From that, energy audits can be arranged, resulting in improvements such as more efficient heating and air-conditioning systems, lighting, higher efficiency motors and pumps, and compressed air improvements. All these changes resulted in lower plant costs and a more satisfied customer.

Bundled and packaged graphite electrodes are ready for delivery. Showa Denko manufactures 18-inch to 32-inch diameter electrodes at the Ridgeville site.

Right: An extruded electrode rolls down into a trough at the plant, where it cools until it can be handled without deforming.

No one is more pleased about this at Showa Denko than N.T. Vasuki, O'Dell's primary contact. Vasuki, who was born in India and educated in the U.S., is a senior process engineer at the plant and its energy manager. He's been working in Ridgeville for 20 years.

"Our relationship with Santee Cooper has always been very positive," says Vasuki. "When a new idea comes up, they are always willing to see if it can work. That's very important to us and we are looking forward to our future together as we begin our expansion."

O'Dell appreciates the support of Showa Denko, especially regarding Santee Cooper's nuclear expansion project. "We've got a great corporate relationship with them, and they're a great corporate citizen."

About Showa Denko

Showa Denko, based in Tokyo, Japan, is one of the world's leading chemical engineering firms. It was formed in 1939 when Nihon Electrical Industries and Showa Fertilizers merged and is a manufacturer of chemical products and industrial materials. The parent firm is divided into five business sectors: petrochemicals (olefins, organic chemicals, plastic products), aluminum (aluminum cans, sheets, ingots, foils), electronics (semiconductors, ceramic materials, hard disks), chemicals (industrial gases, ammonia, agrochemicals), and inorganic materials (ceramics, graphite electrodes). Showa Denko has more than 180 subsidiaries and affiliates. The company has overseas operations and a joint venture with Netherlands-based Montell and Nippon Petrochemicals to make and market polypropylenes. In March 2001, it merged with Showa Denko Aluminum Corp.

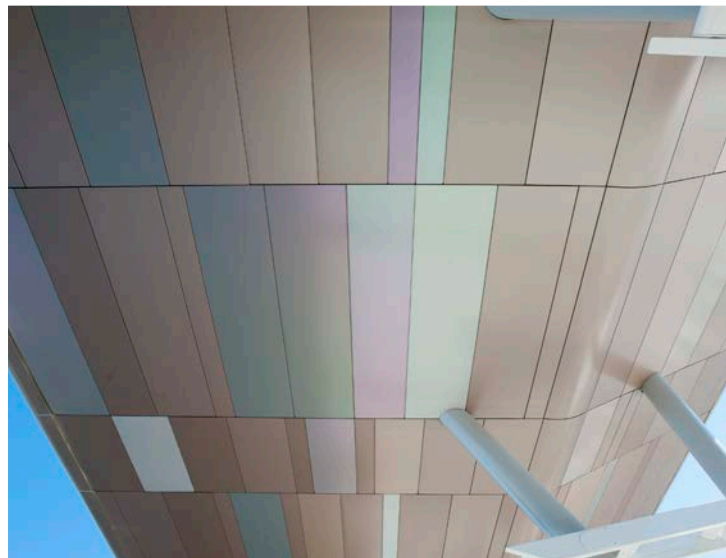
Source: Showa Denko



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT AT MYR

BY NICOLE A. ABELLO
PHOTOS BY JIM HUFF

The new paint, polished counters and a three-times-larger floor plan are tell-tale signs that something big is happening. But there's much more to the Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) expansion than concrete and creature comforts, beginning with the way the project got started. Before the first shovel of dirt was overturned, Horry County took strategic measures to break the \$118.5 million initiative into 28 smaller packages, allowing local and state businesses who otherwise would have been excluded the opportunity to bid on what is one of the county's largest capital construction projects.





Top left: The new terminal at MYR will have ample room and several kiosks in the check in area.

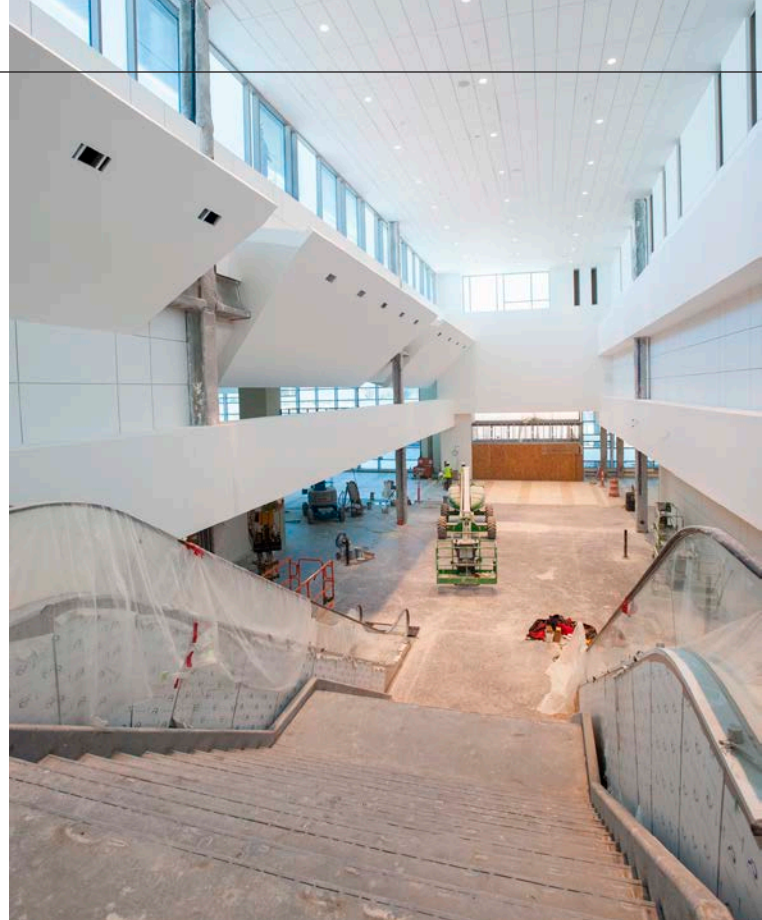
Bottom left: Horry County Director of Airports Mike La Pier explains how the airport expansion created hundreds of jobs and will directly benefit the economy along the Grand Strand.

Right: A new stairway, bathed in natural light from high ceilings and a large number of windows, will take visitors down to the main level of the terminal and the baggage area.

Brad Dean, president and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau, explains how a decision early on by Horry County Council made a big economic impact on the Grand Strand.

“Occasionally, a community initiates a large construction project, but many of the related jobs benefit out-of-state businesses,” Dean explained. “Early on, Horry County leadership and airport management made a firm, unwavering commitment to ensuring that South Carolinian businesses would have a fair chance to win contracts within the new project and that decision has helped to ensure a level playing field for all businesses.”

Horry County Director of Airports Mike La Pier said the decision to break the project into multiple packages was indeed a



forward-thinking move by members of the Horry County Council that has created jobs and helped keep the Grand Strand economy rolling. According to La Pier, the project created 750 full-time jobs and, at any one point in time, there have been no less than 400 people working on the construction, many of whom are neighbors working for local firms.

“Of the contract work that’s been done on the expansion, 70 percent of it has been done by local and state firms,” La Pier said. “That’s pretty impressive, and we are proud of that number. It speaks highly of the kind of strategy implemented by council in the bid process.”

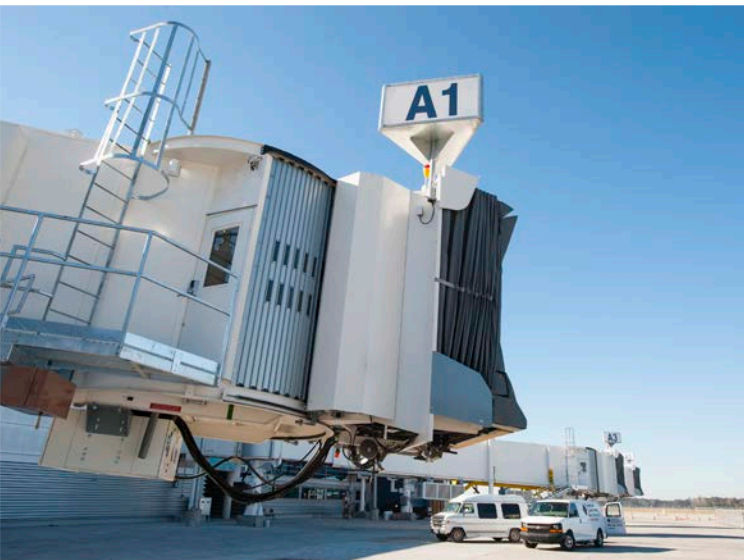
With a record 881,000 people flying through MYR in 2011 and the Federal Aviation Administration projecting continued growth in the industry for the next 15 years, officials say the expansion not only has been good for the community during the construction phase, but also will be important to the business community in the future.

“The strength of our business community is in tourism,” La Pier said. “The expansion will directly benefit our first line of businesses, in the leisure market. We are working with Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce and Golf Holiday to help expand our reach.”

Dean agrees.

“The airport expansion has already benefitted our local economy through significant investment and job creation,” said Dean. “We anticipate 2013 will not only bring a larger airport but additional direct service through existing carriers. With the new airport, our community is well-positioned to grow our base of carriers and service in the future, and that benefits Grand Strand businesses and residents.”

The new terminal's gates have been designed to be able to handle more airline traffic at one time.



And while the tourism industry is the backbone of the Grand Strand's economy, La Pier and Dean believe a larger airport brings potential air service expansion, which is essential to growing business travel to the region. With the new terminal and larger airport, the destination becomes more competitive, which will attract meeting, convention and conference planners to the Myrtle Beach area.

For its part, Santee Cooper has installed new outdoor lights, electrical service, two transformers and thousands of feet of lines serving the new space.

“Ahhhh, I’m here”

The benefits of the airport expansion do not end when a ticket is purchased. Visitors to the Myrtle Beach International Airport will be walking the halls of the new, larger and more modernized terminal in a few short weeks, and what they see and experience can impact their visit.

MYR's new terminal will have an updated look, modern amenities and plenty of natural light, and for many Grand Strand visitors, it will serve as the first and last impression of the destination.



“The airport is a gateway to the Grand Strand and is a visitor’s first and last experience of our destination,” said Chris Eldridge, administrator for Horry County. “We want them to have a good experience when they fly in and when they fly out. We want them to remember their visit in a positive way.”

The new airport terminal has been designed to make air travel more convenient, easier and friendlier. Remote kiosks, which are not tied to any specific airline, will be spread throughout the ticketing area to ease the check in process. Power charging stations will dot the airport and offer a place to plug in cell phones, computers and tablets. Free Wi-Fi will be available throughout the terminal and will allow a high-speed Internet connection for an unlimited number of users.

Even the colors, culled from nature and easy on the senses, have been designed to make the traveler feel more relaxed. The floor tiles are the color of sand and the walls the color of water or sky, and natural light will permeate the building.

Space is also important to the design and overall impression. The new terminal will increase the airport’s square footage

from 125,000 square feet to 398,000 square feet, and increase the number of gates from seven to 13. There will be more space between security checkpoints, more space after checkpoints for flyers to reassemble their belongings, and the gates have been strategically spaced to accommodate more planes at one time.

Additional restaurants will be available inside the new concourse, and there’s even an outdoor seating area that will feature music, colorful tropical flowers and palmetto trees for visitors who want to get some last-minute sunshine before catching their flights. Behind the scenes, impressive state-of-the-art baggage handling technology will sift and sort bags by barcode, allowing for increased precision and faster airline turnover.

All of these amenities play an important role in air travelers’ overall impression of the destination. La Pier explains how he wants people to feel every time they fly to MYR.

“When they walk off the plane and into the airport, we want visitors to say ‘Ahhhhh, I’m here!’”



Business Briefly

Shovel-ready in Dorchester County

State and local officials broke ground recently on Winding Woods Commerce Park, a long-anticipated project on U.S. Highway 78 in St. George. The ceremony commemorated the arrival of reclaimed water and sewer to the site in western Dorchester County, a development made possible by a loan from Santee Cooper to advance the project.



Opening the event, Dorchester County Council Chairman Larry Hargett said, “Winding Woods Commerce Park is a culmination of hard work and strategic planning that will bring future jobs to the St. George area. The best way to grow our economy and support job creation is to invest in the things businesses need to be successful, and having a strong infrastructure is one of them. Today is proof that we are doing just that.”

Winding Woods was first announced in 2009 as the tri-county region’s first certified industrial site that offers companies both port and interstate access.

“Santee Cooper is committed to partnering with local economic development offices and electric cooperatives on projects that bring jobs and prosperity to South Carolina,” said Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper President and CEO. “Winding Woods Commerce Park is a classic example, and it’s destined to be a great success story.”

“Edisto Electric is pleased to be a part of this celebration today,” said David Felkel, President and CEO of Edisto Electric Cooperative, which serves the site. “The commerce park’s prominent location

will be a big draw for those industries interested in locating near the I-95 corridor.”

“Today’s groundbreaking has been a long time coming for Dorchester County, as well as those that helped make this project a reality. Winding Woods has truly been a team effort,” said state Representative Patsy Knight. “Days like today are very rewarding, as we finally see our hard work come to fruition.”

Summing up, Senator John Matthews said, “Winding Woods is one of Dorchester County’s key business assets with a location at the intersection of I-95 and I-26 ideal for large manufacturing and distribution operations. Infrastructure investment was the last major hurdle to overcome in this process and through efforts by many, we can now support businesses in this part of the county.”

South Carolina is Just Right

Those of us fortunate enough to live, work and play in South Carolina know that this state is Just Right. Our attractive tax base, our right-to-work workforce development opportunities, our excellent access through ports and interstates, and our unparalleled quality of life laced with Southern hospitality are a few such examples.

The weather in February isn’t bad either.

That’s why Santee Cooper is proud to join the state’s other major economic development participants and business leaders in building a unique image for South Carolina. A key component is developing a strong marketing base that will serve the state’s efforts to build pride, support business recruitment and retention, and let folks know about the great vacation opportunities between our mountains and our coast.

Stay tuned. (Hint: watch Super Bowl XLVII to learn more.)





Celebrate the Season

by Mollie Gore
photos by Jim Huff

Left and top right: Bright, colorful and energy-efficient LED bulbs showcased the mile-plus holiday lights driving tour.

Bottom: Santa's workshop, with some unusual guests, is bigger-than-life in this original Tom Galmarini mural inside the Interpretive Center.

In its 2012 run, Celebrate The Season holiday lights festival produced a chorus of “oohs” and “aahs” louder than 12 drummers drumming, 11 pipers piping and a partridge in a pear tree. And a month into 2013, it’s a gift still giving.

That’s because Santee Cooper donates all gate proceeds to charities serving Berkeley County. Those donations were made earlier in January, to the Coastal Community Foundation Giving Back to Berkeley Fund and the Berkeley County Museum and Heritage Center.

“From the beginning, we wanted Celebrate The Season to give back to the community,” says Lonnie Carter, president and CEO of Santee Cooper and the man who planted the seed for the two-year-old festival. “We set out to create a holiday tradition. We are thrilled with the results.”

And although the lights have gone dark, folks are already working to improve the festival for 2013 and potentially hand back an even bigger charitable donation this time next year.



Celebrate The Season drew 8,400 vehicles for its 2012 run. At \$5 per carload plus some additional donations made to the gate admission, that totaled more than \$40,000 in charitable donations. And although Santee Cooper and the Old Santee Canal Park host the festival, it wouldn’t be possible without the financial support of nearly 50 other businesses and organizations that sponsored many of the event’s animated light displays.

Carter saw a need in Berkeley County for a focal point to host holiday festivities in a traditional, small-town style. “Throughout the first year, we received wonderful feedback from visitors who were amazed at its scope and who were proud to have it happening in Moncks Corner,” he said.



Santa holds court in his rustic cabin getaway – also known as Classroom One in the Interpretive Center.

Below, another scene from the LED-lighted driving tour.

At right, vendors and a carousel offered additional weekend fun during Celebrate The Season's 2012 run.

Troy Diel, Old Santee Canal Park director, took Carter's idea and illuminated it – literally. Working with David Kizer, landscape and park management supervisor, Diel mapped out a plan to sell sponsorships and then order and install the displays along a 1.2-mile route. The end result: hundreds of thousands of light bulbs (millions perhaps) twinkle on larger-than-life animated holiday scenes along the driving route, which begins at the main entrance to Santee Cooper's headquarters and winds through the adjacent park.

Spotlighting Santee Cooper's environmental stewardship, these twinkling bulbs are all energy-efficient LED bulbs – which, as a bonus, are brighter than the traditional variety. And Diel committed to purchase Santee Cooper Green Power, made from 100 percent renewable resources right here in South Carolina, to power the six-week event.

"We knew we wanted the festival to be true to small-town South Carolina. We also wanted it to pay tribute to the natural resources we celebrate every day at the Old Santee Canal Park, and to do so in a way that is sustainable year in and year out," Diel said.

The driving tour operated seven nights a week during the holiday season.

In addition, on weekends the Old Santee Canal Park sprang to life with festival activities. Visitors parked at a field just outside the park gates and enjoyed a hayride over to the park. Closed to vehicular traffic, the park welcomed pedestrians who ambled about enjoying the light displays up close and took advantage of the many amenities also available. Crafts, food, live entertainment, a holiday market, carousel rides, marshmallow roasts and more waited inside and on the grounds of the Interpretive Center. On the nearby hill looking over the Cooper River, the Stony Landing House offered docent-led tours through its mid-1800s rooms, which the Town and Village Garden Club had dressed up in period holiday decorations.

Area school choruses performed throughout the weekends, and school art classes decorated giant holiday cards that were on display. Most of the vendors are fundraising teams representing additional charities, such as the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Association. "Even the pictures with Santa are raising money for cancer research," Diel said.

Oh yes, Santa held court too, and although the professional photographer was selling photos for charity, parents could take their own photos as their children rattled off their wish lists.



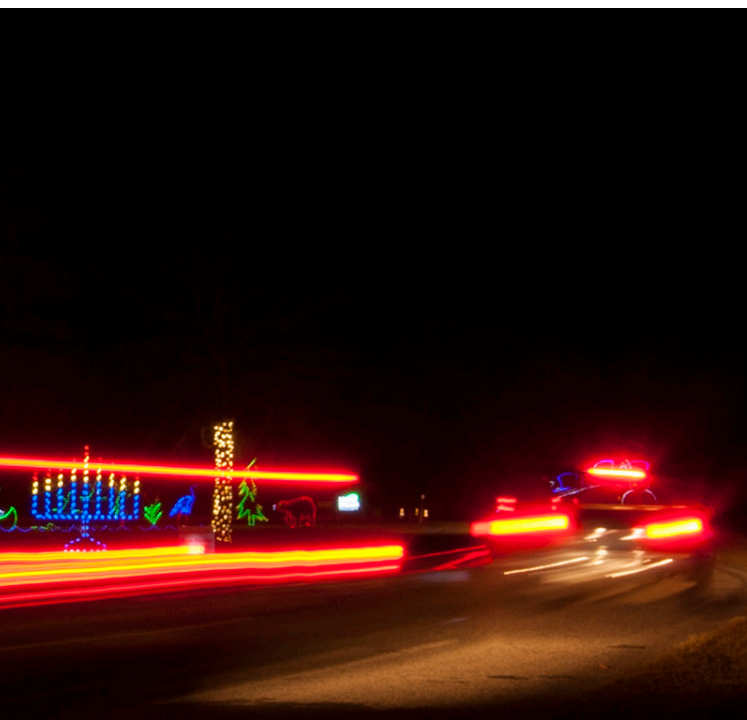
“What’s been especially nice are all the people who make a point to thank us for the event and say how much they’ve enjoyed it,” Diel said.

Many of the visitors posted reviews on Santee Cooper’s Facebook page.

“The drive-through light displays were awesome, and the lights as we walked around the park... were absolutely enchanting,” said Donna Wenger, who had been twice already and planned to return during the 2012 festival. “We definitely have a new Christmas tradition to look forward to every year.”

And Kayla Griswold said she and her family were pleased they came over from Sumter to tour the display. “My two-year-old loved it!” she posted.

“It’s hard to beat the value at \$5 a carload for admission,” Diel noted. “In truth, we couldn’t do this without our sponsors, and many of them have supported us by promoting it to their employees and customers and even by joining our volunteers working every night. It’s been a real pleasure working with each of them.”





Major sponsors for the 2012 event included Berkeley County, Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Goodwill Industries International Inc., Home Telecom and Santee Cooper.

Second-tier sponsors included Central True Value, MeadWestvaco, the town of Moncks Corner, O.L. Thompson Construction Co. Inc. and Showa Denko.

Additional sponsors included Berkeley County Water & Sanitation, Delta Pharmacy, Lord Berkeley Conservation Trust, Peggy Pinnell State Farm Insurance, Piggly Wiggly, John's Truck Service, and Lakeside Animal Hospital.

“We knew we wanted the festival to be true to small-town South Carolina. We also wanted it to pay tribute to the natural resources we celebrate every day at the Old Santee Canal Park, and to do so in a way that is sustainable year in and year out.”

At left, the Stony Landing House is decorated inside and out in holiday trimmings evoking the mid-1800s, courtesy of the Town and Village Garden Club.

Other sponsors included Albany International, ALS Association, BB&T, Berkeley Family Dentistry, Bojangles', BP Cooper River Plant, Kunkle & Kunkle General Dentistry, Farmers & Merchants Bank, First Baptist Church, First Citizens, Grosso Orthodontics, Hometown Bath & Body, Moncks Corner United Methodist Church, Roper St. Francis, Santee Cooper Credit Union, South Carolina Bank and Trust, Stingrays, and St. Stephen Evangelical Church.

Also sponsoring were AgSouth Farm Credit, Blanchard Equipment, Chaluba Farms, Design Flooring, Edward Jones/Jim Rowan, IGA St. Stephen, Moncks Corner Lions Club, Pam Atkins Rice Field Realty, Pointe North Community Church, South Carolina Federal Credit Union, St. John's Christian Academy and UniHealth.

"You know, this is a big undertaking but we are motivated by the support – both financial and in terms of volunteers – from the community and from Santee Cooper employees," said Kizer, a key planner of the project all along. "And when I'm out there and see a child's eyes light up as bright as these displays, I know it's worth it."



SEE MORE AT [SANTEECOOPER.COM/POWERSOURCE](https://www.santeecooper.com/powersource) OR DOWNLOAD OUR APP



Turning Waste into Megawatts

by Willard Strong



photos by Jim Huff

Generation innovation has joined forces with waste reduction near the Berkeley County Landfill, where a new plant applying “anaerobic digestion” technology is safely and efficiently converting waste into electric power purchased by Santee Cooper.

Located on Oakley Road south of Moncks Corner, the plant has a generating capability of 1.6 megawatts, enough to meet the power requirements of about 530 homes. The project is the brainchild of Greg Thompson, president and CEO of Sumter-based GenEarth/BioEnergy Technologies LLC.

“We searched throughout the United States for a good home and I am pleased with the reception offered by both Berkeley County and Santee Cooper to assist in the development of our first green power facility,” Thompson says. “We are excited to demonstrate this project here and duplicate it across the country.

Electric power is produced by a Caterpillar combined-heat and power unit, fueled by methane gas created from the processing of wastewater plant sludge. As part of the process, the methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas, is converted to carbon dioxide. This results in a 20-fold reduction in adverse impact on air quality.

To make Thompson’s vision a reality, his firm partnered with Berkeley County Water and Sanitation, which owns and operates the county landfill, and the Charleston Commissioners of Public Works, which owns and operates wastewater plants in Charleston County.

The domed structure at the GenEarth facility south of Moncks Corner is called a post digester and is dwarfed by the adjacent integral gas-holder. The biogas (methane) produced in these vessels is consumed in a Caterpillar 3520 combined heat and power unit to produce approximately 1.6 megawatts of electricity.

Left: These control valves, part of the heating system, are used to balance the heat requirements at the facility with the amount of heat being supplied by the combined heat and power unit.

Right: Three pasteurization tanks are used to thermally treat the digester effluent to achieve high-quality biosolids for beneficial reuse at the plant.

The plant will also use commercial kitchen grease-trap waste that would otherwise go to a Berkeley County Water and Sanitation facility, and poultry plant wastewater sludge.

“The GenEarth biogas plant is a perfect fit for the green energy park envisioned by Berkeley County,” says Colin Martin, director of Berkeley County Water and Sanitation. “We have found GenEarth to be a great partner, and we are pleased to have the first phase of Berkeley County’s green energy park underway.”

During the construction phase of the project, the facility supported 50 jobs. Ongoing operations will employ a site manager, a maintenance supervisor, two maintenance technicians and a driver.

In order to get on the grid, Santee Cooper coordinated with Berkeley Electric Cooperative on a central delivery point

utilizing a co-op distribution line. BEC serves the landfill site and the immediate area, with Santee Cooper transmission lines in close proximity.

“Santee Cooper is pleased that GenEarth is here to support our voluntary renewable energy program and to add jobs to the community,” says Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper president and CEO. “With our landfill gas generating station already onsite, this makes a natural fit.”

Carter is referring to Santee Cooper’s Berkeley County Green Power Station, a 3-MW facility that entered commercial operation in 2011. Capable of lighting up about 1,300 homes, it is one of six Santee Cooper facilities located at landfills throughout the state fueled by methane gas from decaying garbage. Santee Cooper, the state’s leader in renewable energy, has a Green Power generating capability of approximately 28 MWs from landfill gas, solar and wind.



Santee Cooper Announces Generation Retirements

For the first time in its history, Santee Cooper is retiring generation. The board of directors has authorized closing six electric generating units at our two oldest stations, Jefferies Generating Station in Moncks Corner and Grainger Generating Station in Conway. That decision came after considering Santee Cooper's generation resource needs and the cost of complying with new environmental regulations.

Specifically, Jefferies has two oil units and two coal units with a total capacity of 386 megawatts. The oil units date to 1954 and the coal units, 1970. Grainger has two coal units with a total capacity of 166 MWs and began operation in 1966.

In October, the board directed President and CEO Lonnie Carter to take charge of developing and executing plans for an orderly retirement of these six units. On Dec. 31, the four coal units permanently ceased generation.

"As we evaluated the anticipated costs of complying with new regulations and the generation resources we anticipate needing, it became clear that the best action for our customers and the state is to authorize the retirement of these units at Jefferies and Grainger," Board Chairman O.L. Thompson said. "It is not a decision we make lightly. However, it is the most cost-effective move we can make."

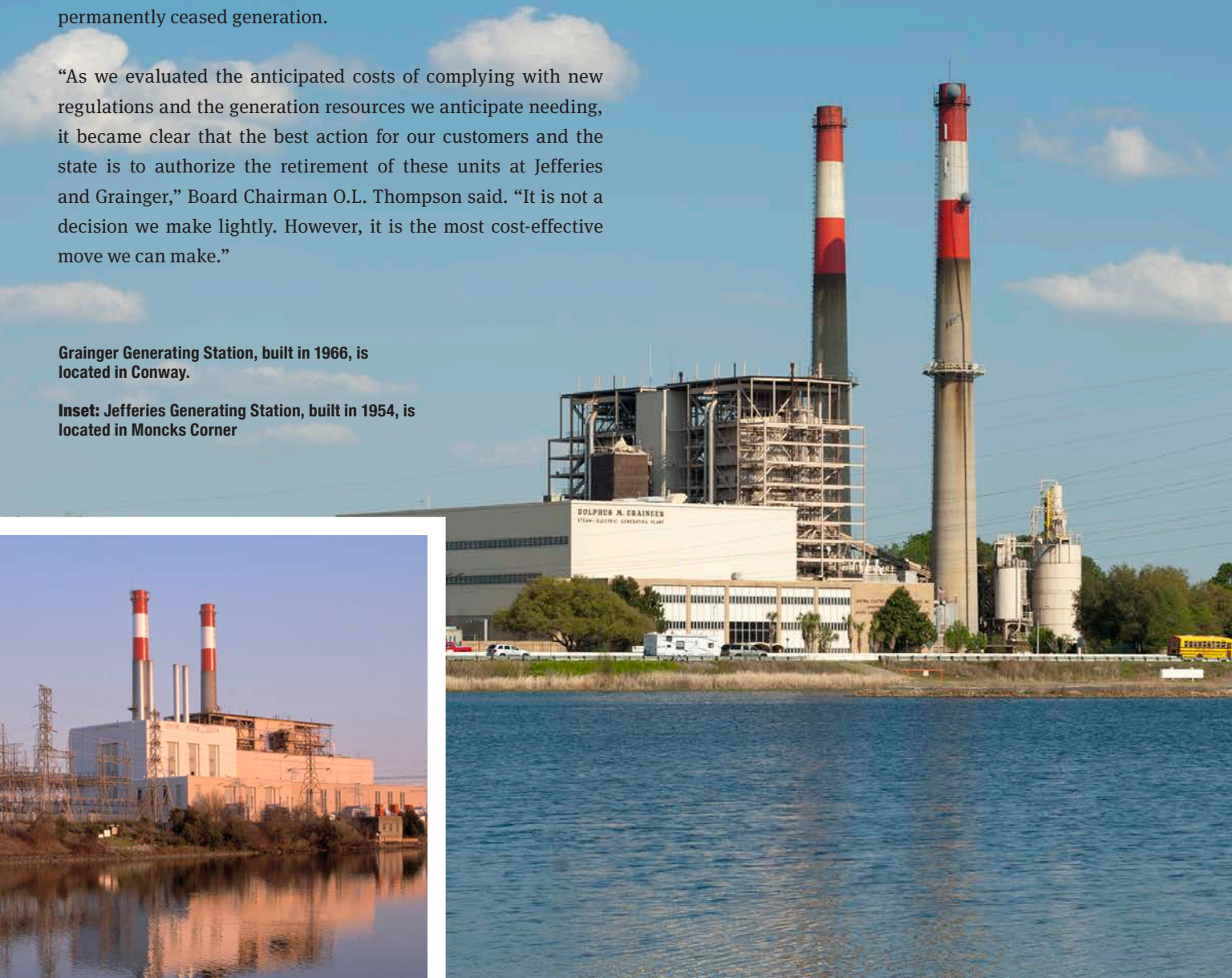
Grainger Generating Station, built in 1966, is located in Conway.

Inset: Jefferies Generating Station, built in 1954, is located in Moncks Corner

Santee Cooper is relocating affected employees to other positions made available through attrition, and so layoffs are not anticipated.

"Santee Cooper's primary responsibility is to provide South Carolina with affordable, reliable and environmentally protective electricity," Carter said. "Even so, this was a difficult recommendation for management to make, given the important legacies of these two generating stations to our utility, our state and to the communities around them."

"I recognize that these decisions will impact many people, and we will be inclusive and transparent as we go forward," Carter said. "The stations are neighbors to thousands of our customers, after all, and we fully intend to remain involved in these communities."



Crews Turn Lights on in N.J.



Nearly 30 Santee Cooper employees spent two weeks on the New Jersey coast this fall, helping restore power to thousands of residents left in the dark by Superstorm Sandy. The crews, assisting Jersey Central Power & Light, worked 16 hours a day, slept in a tractor-trailer converted to hold 36 bunks and had to walk through near-freezing temperatures just to get to the showers.

“Living along the coast, most of us have seen firsthand what a storm can do, and we’re happy to be able to help.”

the coast, most of us have seen firsthand what a storm can do, and we’re happy to be able to help.”

Five crews and 16 vehicles left South Carolina Oct. 31 headed north. As difficult as their days were, the crews were reluctant to leave Nov. 13.

“We’re very proud of our employees who have given up time with their families to help get electricity restored to the thousands of people affected by the storm in New Jersey,” said Neil James, manager of Distribution Operations. “Living along

“It was really hard to leave a community that may take years to rebuild,” said Scott Shoemaker, supervisor of distribution operations, who led the effort.

Shoemaker said they were overwhelmed by the residents’ hospitality. People brought Santee Cooper employees coffee, offered the use of restrooms and even made special trips to stores to be able to offer the crews something to eat.

Distribution Crew Supervisor Woody Days echoed that. “They were in a bad situation, but they would come out and offer whatever they had,” said Days.

Distribution Line Technician-A Ernie Wallace agreed the people they helped made it all worthwhile, and noted they even ran into some South Carolina connections.

“We restored power to a lady in New Jersey who also has a house in Myrtle Beach,” said Wallace. “She said she was so glad to see Santee Cooper show up because she knew that Santee Cooper would bring her power back on.”

**Photos by
Scott Shoemaker**

Board sets 2013 budget

The Santee Cooper Board of Directors approved a \$2.9 billion budget for 2013, essentially flat over the 2012 budget, including \$2 billion for the electric system, \$7.7 million for the water systems, and \$933.7 million for capital expenditures.

Approximately 53 percent of the \$2 billion electric system budget is allocated for fuel and purchased power. Budgeted costs for the fuel necessary to generate electricity and supplemental purchased power total slightly over \$1 billion, with the remaining dollars allocated to all other costs necessary to operate the utility.

“We are taking advantage of the lower prices of natural gas by purchasing more gas-fired electricity where it costs less for our customers,” said Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper president and CEO. “More than ever, flexibility is key for us as we navigate through rising fuel and transportation costs and increasing government regulation. We are continuing to balance options and hold the line on all the costs that we can.”

Water wins taste test

The Lake Marion Regional Water System recently swallowed up the “best-tasting water” designation by the S.C. Rural Water Association.

The Lake Marion Regional Water System, one of two regional water systems owned and operated by Santee Cooper, serves the towns of Santee and Bowman. The Lake Marion system submitted samples for tasting during the SCRWA’s recent competition in Myrtle Beach. When the last glass was drained, victory flowed to the Santee Cooper system.

“It’s an honor to be recognized by your peers,” said R.M. Singletary, executive vice president of corporate services. “This system enhances the quality of life for customers who can depend on safe drinking water from a reliable source. We’re a young system, featuring modern water-treatment processes and equipment, and so this taste test shows the advantage of that modern equipment and the well-trained people we have operating it.”

Just four years old, the system sells water wholesale to the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency, which distributes it to water customers in Santee and Bowman now and plans to expand to serve agency members in Berkeley, Calhoun, Dorchester and Orangeburg counties.

A powerful competition

Santee Cooper is holding a solar design competition inviting state university teams to submit ideas for projects and structures offering fresh ideas for harnessing the sun's energy as a source of electricity.

The Santee Cooper Solar Design Competition is open to individuals or groups representing any college or university within South Carolina; groups may include industry vendors and other professionals. Cash awards will be made to the collegiate program represented by the best submissions. Santee Cooper reserves the right to build one or more of the submitted designs, which should be replicable at various locations and not dependent on a pre-existing structure as part of the design. Submissions are due April 10.

"Santee Cooper introduced renewable Green Power, including solar power, to utility customers in South Carolina. We installed our first solar power project in 2006," said Marc Tye, senior vice president of customer service. "This competition seeks to build on that record by encouraging creative designs with practical applications and benefits that could help spur development of additional solar power generation across the state. And if there are designs submitted that are practical for our customers, we will consider using them in adding to our Green Power fleet."

Garnet, Orange and Green

Whether they yelled C-L-E-M-S-O-N or GAME-COCKS, fans at this year's Clemson-Carolina rivalry game were able to chant one cheer together: G-R-E-E-N.

That's because for the third year in a row, the famed University of South Carolina and Clemson University football game was powered by 100 percent Santee Cooper Green Power.

Clemson University teamed up with Santee Cooper and Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative to ensure that all the electricity needs of the Nov. 24 football game at Memorial Stadium were met with Green Power. Santee Cooper produces 28 megawatts of Green Power from clean, renewable, South Carolina resources, including landfill biogas, solar and wind power.

"These two schools sport spirited rivalries, but they are united in their efforts to promote sustainability," said Lonnie Carter, president and CEO of Santee Cooper. "USC powered this game with Green Power at Williams-Brice Stadium last year, and Clemson started off this green tradition in 2010. I cheer their commitment to leading by example, and note that all revenues from this and all Santee Cooper Green Power sales are reinvested in developing new renewable energy for South Carolina."



Check out PowerSource on the iPad
for interactive features!

Download our app on the Apple Newsstand.